

# RR



**REASON & REVELATION**

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## Is **Lying** **PERMISSIBLE** in **Certain** Situations?

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Rather than reveal himself to the Syrians when he first met them, he said, “This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” And he led them to Samaria” (6:19, ESV). Did Elisha, a prophet of God, lie to the Syrian army?

Bible students must keep in mind that every person who has ever lived, except Christ, has sinned (Romans 3:10,23; 1 Peter 2:22). All of the godly people mentioned in the Bible sinned at various times in their lives. Even inspired penmen, including Moses, David, and Peter, sinned at times.<sup>5</sup> No doubt, at various times in his life, Elisha also sinned against God. Thus, whether Elisha lied on this occasion or not, he definitely fell short at some point in his life.<sup>6</sup>

### IS ALL DECEPTION LYING?

In any discussion, it is very important to consider the meaning of words, the sense in which they are used, and how some words can have broader meanings than other (similar) words. For example, the Bible condemns murder (Exodus 20:13; Romans 1:29), but condones certain killings. In fact, just one chapter after giving the Sixth Commandment (“Thou shalt not **kill/murder**—ASV/NKJV; Hebrew *ratsach*), God commanded that the Israelites were to put to death various lawbreakers, including those guilty of kidnapping, cursing their parents, or premeditated murder (Exodus 21:12-17). In the New Testament, in the very chapter that Paul reminded the Romans, “You shall not murder” (Romans 13:9), he noted that governing authorities do “not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s min-

**Q:** I read your article titled “Did God Approve of Rahab’s Lie?”<sup>1</sup> but I’m still of the belief that lying for noble reasons is permissible. Don’t parents occasionally deceive their kids for good reasons? Didn’t Elisha lie to the Syrians in 2 Kings 6? Did God not suggest a life-saving deception to Samuel in 1 Samuel 16? Surely lying for noble reasons is okay sometimes.

**A:** Since objective, moral goodness is logically rooted and grounded in the very nature of God’s goodness,<sup>2</sup> the most logical place to begin any ethical discussion is with the very nature of God. What does God reveal in Scripture about His own moral character, specifically about truthfulness and dishonesty?

God is innately pure and holy (1 Peter 1:15-16; 1 John 3:3). “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). Everything about God is true, including His Spirit, Son, judgments, works, laws, and commandments—all are true, 100% true.<sup>3</sup> The simple fact is, “God...cannot lie” (Titus 1:2); “It is impossible for God to lie” (Hebrews 6:18). His perfectly truthful nature will not allow Him to lie. Furthermore, throughout God’s truthful Word, honesty

is commended, while lying is condemned.<sup>4</sup> So, if God is **always** truthful, and if His truthful Word teaches us to be honest and not lie, how can we ever say that God has authorized us to lie in certain situations?

### “BUT WHAT ABOUT ELISHA’S LIE?”

As Ben-Hadad, the king of Syria, made war with Israel, the prophet Elisha warned Israel’s king (Joram) time and again how to avoid the Syrians. Ben-Hadad eventually learned that Elisha was the one who kept the king of Israel informed, so he commissioned “a great army” to go arrest the prophet of God (2 Kings 6:13-14). When Elisha saw the Syrian army, he prayed that the Lord would strike them with blindness, which He did. The prophet then told the blinded Syrians, “This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek” (2 Kings 6:19). Elisha proceeded to lead them to Samaria, the capital of Israel. Only after the Syrians were inside Samaria did God return to them their sight. Undoubtedly, it was here that Elisha revealed himself to the Syrians.

ister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil” (13:1-4).<sup>7</sup> When the entirety of Scripture is considered, the Bible student learns that all murder is killing, and is sinful, but not all killing is murder. In truth, throughout history God has authorized some killing in certain situations.<sup>8</sup>

Similarly, though all lying is a form of deception, not all deception is equivalent to the sin of lying. The Greek noun “lie” is *pseudos*<sup>9</sup>—a “conscious and intentional falsehood.”<sup>10</sup> The English word “lie” may be defined as “to make an untrue statement with the intent to deceive.”<sup>11</sup> A fake handoff in football is deceptive, but it’s not lying. A no-look pass in basketball is tricky, but not dishonest. Wearing a disguise or camouflage fatigues in war so as not to be seen (or seen as easily) by the enemy is deceptive, but not untruthful. A woman may color her hair to “cover up” her gray so as not to appear as old as she is. That’s not lying, but it is a form of deception. The same thing can be said about a man’s toupee. A “lie” would be for the man to say something like, “This is my actual hair. I am not wearing a toupee.”

What’s more, aren’t many “knock-off” brands a form of honest deception? When I was a child, I wore fake “Air Jordan” shoes. They looked kind of cool (to me anyway), and were only a fraction of the cost of real Jordans, but they weren’t actual Jordans. If people mistakenly thought I had on Jordans, I didn’t mind, nor did I have an obligation to correct every person who may have thought they were real Jordans. But, if I ever actually said, “I have

a pair of Jordans,” then I would have been lying.

## Back to Elisha

When the Syrians invaded Israel in order to find and arrest the prophet of God, Elisha appeared to them without first revealing himself to his blind enemies. Instead, he said to follow him and he would bring them to the one they sought. He eventually revealed himself to them, but only after he had led them to Samaria and their sight was returned to them. Did Elisha **trick** his pursuers? Yes. But misleading enemy soldiers, intruders, or others who might want to do us harm is not necessarily the equivalent to lying.

**The Scriptures do not clearly indicate whether Elisha lied to the Syrians or not.** (Of all the communication that likely took place between them, **only one line** is recorded in Scripture; 2 Kings 6:19.) If Elisha did lie, such a sin would neither reflect poorly on God or the Bible—“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory

of God” (Romans 3:23). Still, we must be careful not to presume to know what Elisha did. In a time of war, he strategically led his God-given “captives” to “the city” of his choosing, where he would reveal “Elisha” to them, as he said he would.<sup>12</sup>

## Must We Reveal Everything We Know?

Consider the very nature of God: in addition to being 100% truthful and by His very nature unable to lie (as discussed earlier), He’s also omniscient (Psalm 139:1-4; 1 Chronicles 28:9). Are there innumerable things that our Creator and Savior knows that we do not know? Certainly. Does His perfectly honest moral character compel Him to tell us everything He knows, even when we ask? Absolutely not. One lesson to learn from our most upright, moral Maker is that telling the truth is not equivalent to “revealing everything” we know.

When God sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem for the purpose of anointing David as the next

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king of Israel, Samuel mentioned that Saul would kill him if he heard of it. God's response: "Take a heifer with you, and say, '**I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.**'" Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you. So Samuel did what the Lord said" (1 Samuel 16:2-4). When the elders of Bethlehem asked Samuel if he came peaceably, the prophet said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord" (16:5). Was the sacrifice the primary purpose of Samuel's visit to Bethlehem? No. But **Samuel was under no obligation to tell his questioners the central reason for his visit.** He simply revealed to them **one** reason (a secondary reason) for his arrival into town.

#### Can We Distract and Divert Attention?

How many truthful, though blatantly illusive, things can a passionate husband and wife say to their child who finds a way into their room in the middle of the night? What do conscientious parents say to a young child who asks somewhat blunt questions about sensitive matters—answers for which innocent children are not yet prepared? The fact is, there may be many wise, truthful (though admittedly somewhat allusive) ways to respond. A dad may use the "distracting technique" and try to divert attention away from the sensitive topic. A mother may use the "Samuel technique" (1 Samuel 16:1-5) and tell the child only a part (or parts) of the fuller answer—the few part(s) that are prudent for the child to know. Parents may also use the "generalize technique" and simply speak in very broad, vague, but truthful generalities. Though

parents are not authorized to lie to their children, we may righteously use various creative ways to respond to sensitive questions.

#### Can We Deceptively Outwit Enemies and Those Who Want to Harm Us?

In Judges 7, God said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men...I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand.... Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand" (7:7,9). How did God use Gideon's 300 men to help bring down an enemy with 135,000 soldiers (cf. Judges 8:10)? In the middle of the night, they surrounded the enemy's camp, blew trumpets, shouted, made loud noises by breaking pitchers, and held up torches (7:16-22). And what did the enemy no doubt think as they were suddenly awakened from a deep sleep? That they were under attack by a great army. But was there really a great army? No, just a great God, Who authorized Gideon to use a tiny army to outwit the enemy. No lie was told, but approved deception was used.

In the often-used, extreme example of someone breaking into our house and asking questions for the purpose of harming ourselves and family members, what can we do?<sup>13</sup> Many seem to ask this question as if it somehow proves that lying is permissible, yet nowhere in Scripture does God authorize lying. God's command to tell the truth and not lie, however, does not mean we cannot act cleverly and courageously. The intruder has no lawful right to be in the house, so we are under no obligation to do anything he instructs us to do. We may simply remain quiet and pray that the same God Who providentially delivered

many thousands of Jews out of the hands of the Persians some 2,500 years ago will providentially provide a remedy to our situation (Esther 3:1-9:17). We may try to escape. (On more than one occasion, Jesus hid and escaped from His murderous enemies—Luke 4:30; John 8:59; 10:39.) We may (like Samuel) only tell the criminal secondary truths. We may (like Gideon) have a way to outwit the intruder. Or (as odd as this may sound to some), we may attempt to talk to the intruder about the Gospel. (Who knows how God could use such a terrible, frightening situation to His glory? After all, was the greatest missionary the world has ever known not a formerly violent man, who previously "made havoc of the church, entering every house and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison"—Acts 8:3?)

Although human life is an extremely valuable gift from God (Genesis 1:26-27), the most important thing in this life is not merely to live, but to be faithful to God, regardless of the situation. Jesus could have lied and worked things out to spare His own life, but He died (and rose) for a higher purpose. He submissively fulfilled His Father's will. Jesus and His inspired spokesmen could have instructed the early church to avoid persecution and death by lying for each other or by denying their own faith in Christ, but they didn't. In fact, to those first-century Christians who were suffering (or were about to face great tribulation), even to the point of death, Jesus declared, "Be faithful until death ["even to the point of death"—NIV], and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation



2:10). Whatever course of action the Christian takes, it should be done honestly and wisely (Matthew 10:16).

### MOTIVATIONS MATTER

Lest anyone think that we are suggesting sinful deception, or “lawful deception” for sinful reasons, we must remember that our **motivations matter**—in **everything** we do. Jesus spent a great deal of time exposing the “righteous” Pharisees for their sinful hypocrisy. Although they “outwardly appeared righteous to men” (Matthew 23:28)—praying, fasting, doing charitable deeds, etc.—many of their “lawful” actions were negated by their sinful motives. If we pridefully pray “truthful” words, but for the wrong reasons, we sin (Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 6:5-6). If we do the “right” works, but for the wrong reasons, we will have “no reward” from our Father in heaven (Matthew 6:1). Paul wrote, “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor...but have not love, it profits me nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:3). God has made it abundantly clear in Scripture—“technically” we may look and sound like we are doing what God authorizes, yet if such things are done without proper, godly motives, then our actions are tragically wrong.

Thus, otherwise lawful deception (such as not telling the “whole story” for righteous reasons—cf. 1 Samuel 16:1-5) may very well be sinful for the teenager who does not reveal to his questioning parents who he’s been hanging out with. If he mentions everyone except the one person whom his parents have forbidden, has he lied? Not necessarily. But did his

unrighteous motives make his deception sinful? Certainly. Children are to submit to their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3). If they say the “right” things for the wrong reasons, they are no more submitting to their parents’ authority than any improperly motivated child of God is submitting to the Father in heaven.

Similarly, if an adulterous husband tells his wife “truthful” things, but just not everything, is he lying to his wife? He may not be outright lying in various “carefully worded” (“I-don’t-want-to-get-caught”) specific statements, but is he sinfully deceiving and cheating on his God-given spouse? Certainly! He’s being immorally deceptive by not keeping his original oath and commitment that he made to his wife when they exchanged vows at their wedding ceremony. He’s being untrue in his actions. He’s being altogether unloving to the precious bride that God commands him to love “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25). The man’s unrighteous motivations and “lying life” expose his deception as terribly sinful and destructive.

### CONCLUSION

I may have misstated something in this article, but that would not necessarily be a lie, unless I **intended** to be dishonest. After all, “to err is human.” Everyone occasionally says things that are wrong, and yet those **honest mistakes** are not lies. In addition to the actual **act** of stating an untruth is the **motivation** behind it. How many times has an honest, conscientious preacher unintentionally cited the wrong Bible verse in a

sermon? Or how many times has an honest husband forgotten to get milk on the way home from work after having told his wife, “I will get milk on the way home”? Indeed, lying is a “**conscious** and **intentional** falsehood.”<sup>14</sup> What’s more, when we look at the entirety of Scripture (Psalm 119:160), and “rightly divide the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15), we find that, while God never condones the sin of lying, He does authorize righteously motivated, honest deception.<sup>15</sup>

The purpose of acknowledging certain examples of authorized deception must **never** be to rationalize the sin of lying—any more than giving scriptural justification for capital punishment should ever cause us to rationalize murder. The fact is, lying is a terrible sin. It is the first sin that we read about in the Bible (Genesis 3:4). It is of the devil (John 8:44). It is abominable and hated by God (Proverbs 12:22; 6:17,19). It is damnable (Revelation 21:8). And it is very, very tempting at times.

There is never a justifiable reason to be untruthful. Christians must be resolved to “be imitators of God as dear children” in all things at all times (Ephesians 5:1). As we follow the example of Jesus, “the truth” (John 14:6), we must be resolved to put away lying (Ephesians 4:28) and to be fair and honest all day, every day.

### ENDNOTES

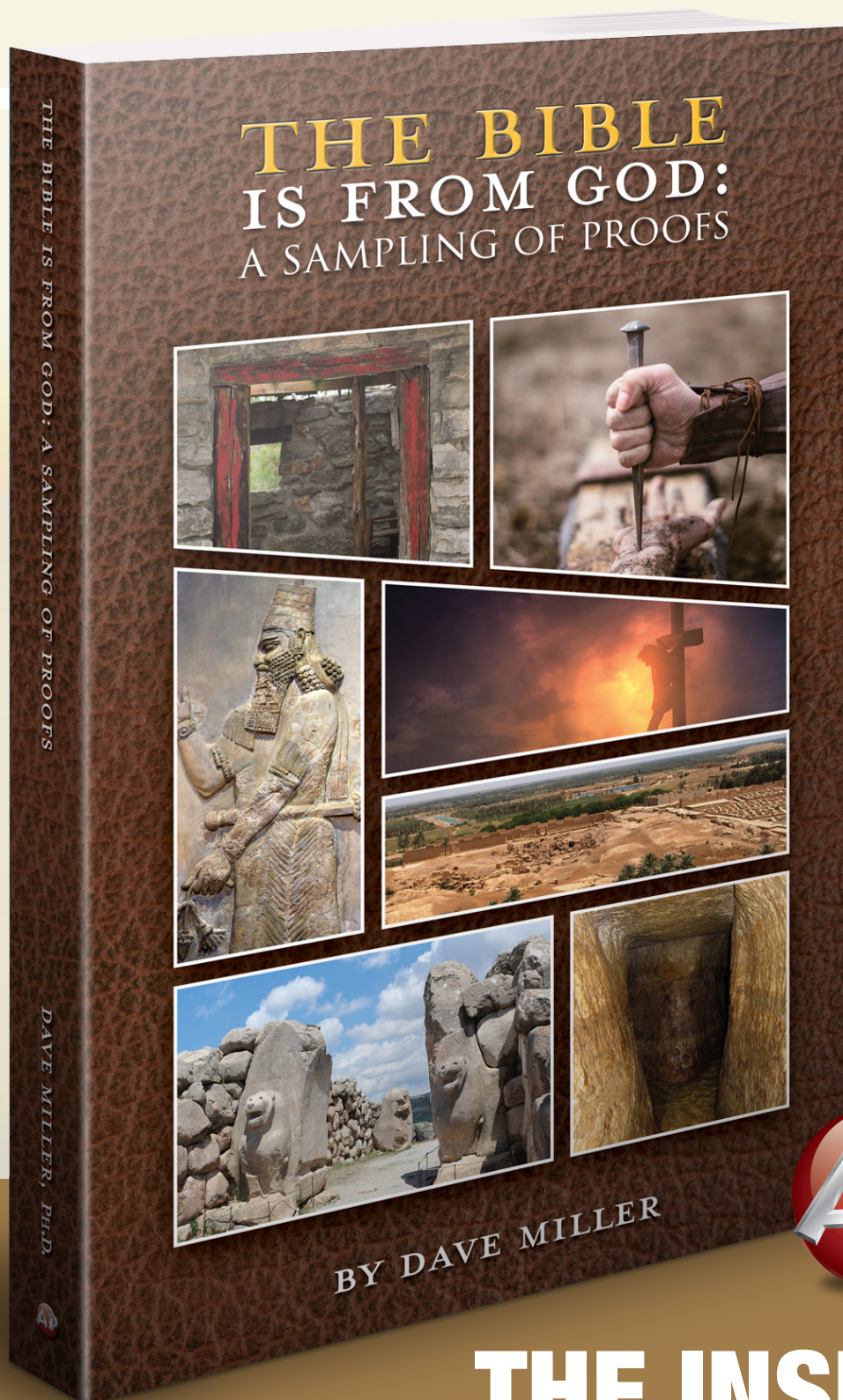
<sup>1</sup> [spress.org/apPubPage.aspx?pub=1&issue=1250&article=2718](http://apologeticspress.org/apPubPage.aspx?pub=1&issue=1250&article=2718).

<sup>2</sup> is Good Good?” <http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=12&article=3601>. See also Eric Lyons (2011), “The Moral

(cont. on p. 80)

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Argument for the Existence of God,” *Reason & Revelation*, 31[9]:86-95, <http://apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=12&article=4101>.

Samuel 7:28; Psalm 119:14,151; 19:9.

16:11; Ephesians 4:25; Revelation 21:8.

municated the Spirit’s supernatural revelation accurately as He “carried” them “along” (2 Peter 1:20-21), but inspiration was not a 24-hour-a-day, supernatural process that protected inspired men from being able to sin.

**not** stop to specify when individuals lied (and sinned) in Scripture (cf. Genesis 3:4; 4:9; 27:24; 37:31-35; 1 Samuel 21:2), any more than He always paused to specify when someone performed a righteous or courageous act.

the state—civil government—has the God-ordained responsibility to keep law and order, and to protect its citizens against evildoers. The word ‘sword’ in this passage refers

to capital punishment. God wants duly constituted civil authority to invoke the death penalty upon citizens who commit crimes worthy of death” [Dave Miller (2002), “Capital Punishment and the Bible,” <https://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=7&article=683>].

Murder, and the Bible,” <http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&article=2794>.

and F.W. Gingrich (2000), *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Chicago: University of Chicago), p. 1097.

*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker), p. 676.

*Merriam-Webster*, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lie>.

to the Syrians, “I will bring you to the man whom you seek,” that **he meant** “the king of Israel” (whether the Syrians understood him or not)? Elisha

may have been thinking, “These people are at war with the king of Israel, not me. The king is who they really want, so that’s where I will take them” (2 Kings 6:11, 21).

exception” that is continually brought up in discussions about abortion and the value of human life. Rape, of course, is a terribly repulsive sin, which warrants the most extreme forms of punishment. However, one terrible act (rape) does not authorize another (the murder of an unborn child). Furthermore, the “rape-exception” is used by many in hopes of validating all abortions, not just “the exception.” Similarly, many people seem to think that a violent intruder into our lives gives Christians the “right to lie,” yet again, one wrong does not make another wrong “right.”

Thayer, p. 676, emp. added.

tion” in Scripture (e.g., 2 Timothy 3:13) would be a condemnation of dishonest deception or sinfully motivated deception.



**I**N 2012, we reported the heartening results of a GALLUP poll on the beliefs of Americans regarding the origin and age of the Universe.<sup>1</sup> At that time we could confidently report that belief in

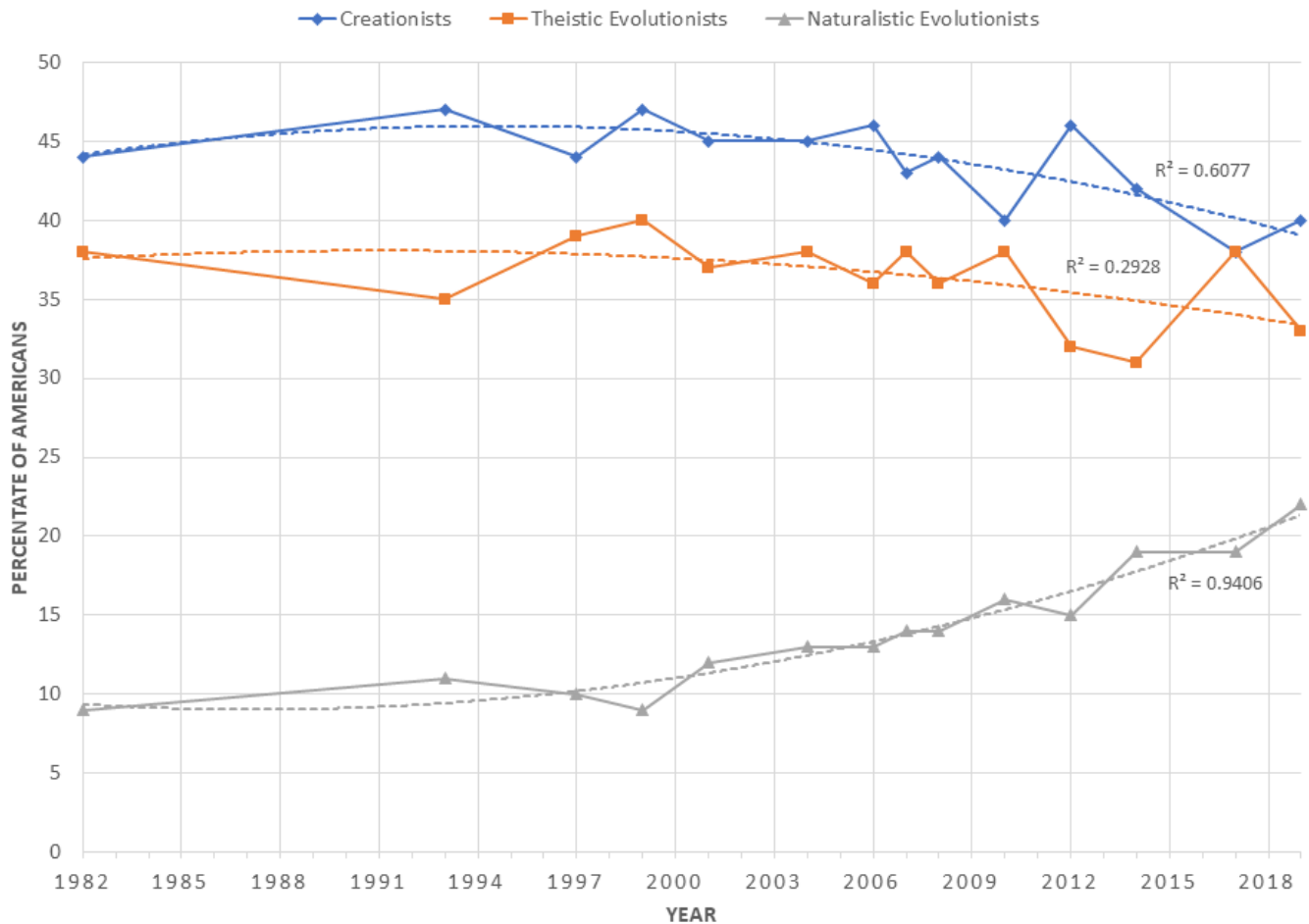
Creation and a young Earth had been remaining roughly constant for 30 years and that neither theistic evolution nor naturalistic evolution as separate groups were accepted by more Americans than

young Earth Creation—a notable feat, indeed, considering that naturalism has dominated science in public schools for decades. The poll has since been updated twice. How do the numbers currently look?<sup>2</sup>

Young Earth Creation is still the leading belief among the three options in the poll, but the claim that belief in young Earth Creation continues to remain **constant** among American citizens is less certain. Trendlines can be misleading over short timespans, especially with confidence levels as low as those found for the creationist and theistic evolutionist trendlines. With the added data



## PERCENTAGE OF U.S. CREATIONISTS & EVOLUTIONISTS



from the past eight years, the trend **appears** now to be downward. As has consistently been the case (and as would be expected), those who do not regularly go to church tend to believe in evolution rather than biblical Creation. Over the last 20 years, the number of Americans who are members of a Christian Church has dropped from 70% to 50%,<sup>3</sup> and the percentage of Americans who attend worship services at least once a month has dropped to 45%.<sup>4</sup> Obviously, if fewer people are regularly **hearing** the truth, fewer people will **know** the truth, much less **believe** the

truth (Romans 10:17). [Parents: are you making sure your children are receiving a steady diet of the truth about Creation?]

It is noteworthy that the consistent, linear trend among Americans with regard to monthly or more church attendance (dropping 8% over the last 10 years to 45%) does not tell the whole story. Among those who **identify** as Christian, there has been virtually **no change** in monthly or more church attendance over the past 10 years: roughly 62%. That means that American “Christians” are worshipping as much as ever, but

**there are fewer Americans who identify as Christians.** Another way to say it: Christians are not converting Americans as much as they have in the past. [Christians: are you doing enough to get the word out? If not, do not be surprised as immorality blossoms in society around you.]

Another unsurprising trend: the likelihood that a person will accept evolution and reject biblical Creation drastically climbs among those who receive a college degree. While only 16% of Americans without a college degree believe in naturalistic evolution, the num-

## Parents: are you making sure your children are receiving a steady diet of the truth about Creation?

ber more than doubles among those who receive a degree (33%). While 48% of Americans without a college degree believe in young Earth, biblical Creation, the number halves after they receive a college degree (23%). Atheists would no doubt argue that such statistics support the contention that Christians are simply ignorant—that being educated would force them to accept naturalism/atheism/evolution. Naturalism, however, can conclusively be shown to be false and even self-contradictory.<sup>5</sup> In truth, proper education about naturalism would cause fewer people to become naturalists. The reason a college education leads to belief in evolution is not because of knowledge or truth. When we send our children unprepared to be indoctrinated daily for four years by naturalistic college professors (who, no doubt, comprise the bulk of U.S. university professors), we can **expect** that they will come to believe in evolution. [Parents: are your children prepared for what they will likely hear and study in college?]

At first, the statistics concerning theistic evolution believers seem

heartening, since they appear to be showing a slightly downward trend over the last 37 years. And then we see the **clear, unavoidable** upward trend of naturalistic evolutionists in our country. The number of creationists and theistic evolutionists from poll to poll seem to be somewhat “up and down” (making confidence in the trendlines lower). It is, therefore, more difficult to unequivocally trace the trend, but the percentage of Americans who are naturalistic evolutionists has climbed in a **consistent** way over the last 37 years, with little deviation from the trendline: from 9% to 22%.<sup>6</sup> Be alarmed. A naturalistic evolutionary society would be an ugly one in which to live.<sup>7</sup> In the words of famous atheistic, evolutionary biologist of Oxford University, Richard Dawkins, “My own feeling is that a human society based simply on the gene’s law of universal ruthless selfishness would be a very nasty society in which to live.”<sup>8</sup> [Parents: are your children prepared to defend the faith against atheists, or are they vulnerable to the arguments they will likely encounter from the rapidly increasing number of naturalists in American society?]

It is truly amazing that the number of young Earth biblical creationists in our country has remained as high as it has over the past 37 years. It begs the question: **why** has that been the case, especially considering the fact that the number of church members and church attenders in our country has plummeted? At least two of

the key factors are surely the following: (1) the logical plausibility of biblical Creation as compared to evolution—humans intuitively know we are designed and not the product of chance and accidents.<sup>9</sup> In the words of famous skeptic Michael Shermer, “The design inference comes naturally. The reason people think that a Designer created the world is because it *looks* designed”;<sup>10</sup> (2) the fact that Christians have been effective in making the case for biblical Creation over the past 37 years. What do you suppose would happen to the statistics if Christians gradually let down their guard and stopped making the case for biblical Creation—which very well may be occurring in some places?

Now, stepping back from the statistics, consider: what are you doing to get the word out about the foundational truths of Christianity in a day and age when they are under heavy assault? Have you given it much thought? Are you leaving it up to others to do the work? What can **you** do more (or better) than you are currently doing? Here are seven things you could be doing that will make an impact:

## Parents: are your children prepared for what they will likely hear and study in college?



- (1) “Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life” (Deuteronomy 4:9a). Include apologetics/Christian evidences in your personal and family Bible study time. Otherwise, you could become part of the trend.
- (2) Moses continues: “And teach them to your children and your grandchildren” (Deuteronomy 4:9b). Make sure your own children and grandchildren are being taught the truth regarding the fundamentals of the Christian faith.
- (3) Stay connected to the Word and people of God—study your Bible **daily** (Acts 17:11). Meet with the church every time it assembles. Jesus admonished His disciples to put the Church and doing right at the top of our priority list (Matthew 6:33).
- (4) Get Christian evidences materials into the hands of your friends, family, and your community (2 Timothy 4:2; Ezra 7:10; Ezekiel 3:18-19). E-mail articles or post them on social media; leave tracts at restaurants, hotels, doctor’s offices, gas stations, and grocery stores; and send materials to children in your sphere of influence.
- (5) Make sure your children, grandchildren, and church youth group are being pre-

pared for the error they are sure to encounter at school, in college, from friends, from books/TV/movies, and from social media (1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3).

- (6) Pray for opportunities to talk about Creation to those who are interested (Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 18:1).
- (7) Help Apologetics Press to do what we do (1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1). We work full-time, making sure you and your family are equipped with the materials you need to defend and teach the faith. We cannot function without your prayers and assistance. Will you help?

## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Jeff Miller (2012), “Literal Creationists Holding Their Ground in the Polls,” *Reason & Revelation*, 32[9]:94-95.
- <sup>2</sup> Megan Brenan (2019), “40% of Americans Believe in Creationism,” *Gallup News On-line*, July 26, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/261680/americans-believe-creationism.aspx>.
- <sup>3</sup> Jeffrey M. Jones (2019), “U.S. Church Membership Down Sharply in Past Two Decades,” *Gallup News On-line*, April 18, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/248837/church-membership-down-sharply-past-two-decades.aspx>.
- <sup>4</sup> “In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace” (2019), *Pew Research Center On-line*, October 17, <https://www.pewforum.org/2019/10/17/in-u-s-decline-of-christianity-continues-at-rapid-pace/>.
- <sup>5</sup> Jeff Miller (2017), *Science vs. Evolution* (Montgomery, AL: Apologetics Press), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.
- <sup>6</sup> R<sup>2</sup> value of 0.94, versus 0.29 and 0.61 for the polynomial trends of theistic evolutionists and biblical creationists, respectively. Calculations based on data from “Evolution, Creationism, Intelligent Design” (2019), *Gallup News On-line*, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/21814/evolution-creationism-intelligent-design.aspx>. Accessed May 11, 2020.
- <sup>7</sup> Cf. Kyle Butt (2008), “The Bitter Fruits of Atheism [Part 1],” *Reason & Revelation*, 28[7]:49-55, July.
- <sup>8</sup> Richard Dawkins (1989), *The Selfish Gene* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp. 2-3.
- <sup>9</sup> Kyle Butt (2013), “Why Is Belief in God Natural to Mankind?” *Reason & Revelation*, 33[5]:50-57.
- <sup>10</sup> Michael Shermer (2007), *Why Darwin Matters: The Case Against Intelligent Design* (New York, NY: Henry Holt), Kindle edition, p. 65, ital. in orig.

## SPEAKING SCHEDULES

### Kyle Butt

July 15

Augusta, GA

(706) 855-0801

July 22

Decatur, AL

(256) 355-7439

### Eric Lyons

July 7

Parrish, AL

(205) 686-7996

July 29

Birmingham, AL

(205) 988-5808

### Dave Miller

July 5

Montgomery, AL

(334) 264-2985

July 8

Birmingham, AL

(204) 440-3206

July 15

Birmingham, AL

(205) 988-5808

### Jeff Miller

July 26

Montgomery, AL

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## NOTE FROM *The Editor*



### New Book on Inspiration

For over 2,000 years, Christians have been defending the authenticity and inspiration of the Bible. The existent evidence has been proclaimed and presented continuously during these two millennia. Indeed, the divine inspiration of the Bible has been firmly established and can never be legitimately repudiated. AP has just released a new book which offers a sampling of that voluminous evidence. Among the topics and themes addressed are the **nature** of Bible inspiration, why the Bible is **not** a “book of fables” as alleged by skeptics, how **prophecy** proves the Bible, how “Messianic anticipations” verify inspiration, instances of foreknowledge, as well as uncanny characteristics of the writers.

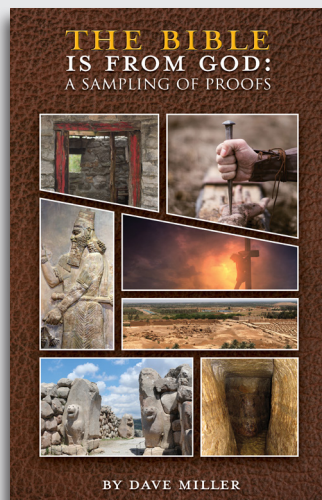
As with many AP books, this one is designed to be of use in the classroom. In addition to discus-

sions of internal proofs of inspiration, the volume contains 260 review questions for Bible class and private study, a discussion of nine Messianic prophecies, extensive endnotes with additional discus-

sion, and appendices on Messianic prophecies and Bible typology.

Not designed to provide an extensive, exhaustive discussion of Bible inspiration, this book is intended to provide a “smattering” of the massive amount of evidence that proves the supernatural origin of the Bible. The book is designed to whet the appetite in hopes that those who read it will be motivated to spend more time exploring and discovering the wonder of God’s written revelation.

**Dave Miller**



See Center Spread  
for More Details